



March 9, 2020

## **RECTOR'S DINNER UPDATE**

To all of our friends and benefactors,

We are grateful to report that our community remains healthy and is doing well with the current academic restrictions in Rome. We ask that you continue to pray for our seminarians, student priests, faculty, and staff.

In consultation with our 2020 Rector's Dinner honorees - Cardinal Sean O'Malley and Dennis and Lynne Jilot - and in light of the most recent statements from the CDC regarding travel to and from Italy, we believe it is now most prudent to cancel the Rector's Dinner scheduled for April 23, 2020. While we initially hoped to avoid having to make this decision too early, and are still hoping and expecting that the current restrictions will not escalate, we realize that now is the prudent time to make this decision. This will give those who were planning to attend the Dinner adequate time to change their travel plans.

Cardinal O'Malley asked that I share the following with those who have already made a financial commitment to the Dinner:

*"Please join me in honoring the gifts and pledges we all made for the Pontifical North American College 2020 Rector's Dinner. Although current circumstances have interrupted this year's dinner, the College's mission of forming young men to serve as priests continues every day. The College depends on our much-needed support to carry out this important service for the Church. It is a privilege and a blessing for us to be benefactors for the seminarians who as priests will serve our families and communities for many years to come."*

In speaking with Dennis and Lynne Jilot this weekend, they both agreed with this sentiment and asked that I share their support with you. We plan to honor the Jilots and Cardinal O'Malley at next year's Rector's Dinner on April 15, 2021.

As you likely know, the tickets, sponsorships, and Album ads that come from the Rector's Dinner provide an essential portion of our annual effort to help fulfill the financial needs of the College. My sincere hope is that your understanding of this fact will lead you to honor your intended donation to the Dinner. If you choose to uphold your gift to the Rector's Dinner – thank you. However, if you would like a refund, please alert our Washington, DC office no later than April 1, 2020 and our staff will honor your request promptly.

For those who placed an ad in our Rector's Album, I offer the following:

- We will list all advertisers on our website for the remainder of the year.
- Should you choose to uphold your gift, we will offer a 25% discount for any ad placed in the 2021 Rectors' Dinner album and highlight your 2020 gift as well.

We continue to monitor the situation here in Rome very carefully. Please know that our men are in good spirits, they understand the situation at hand, and we are doing everything we can to ensure the health and safety of our community.

In Christ,

Fr. Peter Harman  
*Rector*